

Message Text

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SUBJECT: AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST: LIBERIA BREAKS

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

REF: MONROVIA 6032 AND PREVIOUS

TRANSMITTED HERewith IS THE STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT
OF LIBERIA ANNOUNCING SEVERANCE OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS
WITH ISRAEL:

QUOTE: THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, A CHARTER MEMBER OF
BOTH THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION AND THE ORGANIZATION
OF AFRICAN UNITY, IS A PEACE LOVING NATION, WHICH RESPECTS
AND ADNERES TO ALL THE PRINCIPLES EMBODIED IN THE
RESPECTIVE CHARTERS OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS. THE FUNDAMENTAL
PRINCIPLES ENSHRINED IN EACH OF THESE SACRED DOCUMENTS

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INCLUDE: RESPECT FOR THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ALL

STATES, AND THE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES BY
NEGOTIATION, MEDIATION, CONCILIATION OR ARBITRATION.

THEREFORE IN ITS INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS , THE
GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA HAS CONSISTENTLY ADHERED TO THESE
PRINCIPLES AND SPARED NO EFFORT IN MEDIATING AND RECON-
CILING PARTIES TO DISPUTES AND CONFLICTS, BOTH ON THE
AFRICAN SCENE AND ON THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL.

FOR MORE THAN A QUARTER OF A CENTURY THE WORLD HAS
BEEN PLAGUED BY A CRISIS IN THE MIDDLE EAST WHICH, ON
FOUR OCCASIONS, DURING THIS PERIOD, HAS FLARED INTO A
FULL-SCALE WAR, THEREBY ENDAGERING INTERNATIONAL
PEACE AND SECURITY.

DURING THE 1967 SIX DAY WAR, LIBERIA MAINTAINED
RELATIONS WITH ALL THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT AND
EARNESTLY PARTICIPATED IN THE SEARCH FOR A JUST AND
LASTING PEACE. AT THE UNITED NATIONS, THE SECURITY COUNCIL
VIEWING THE CONFLICT WITH GRAVE CONCERN, ADOPTED RESOLU-
TION 242 IN WHICH A SOUND BASIS FOR A PERMANENT SETTLEMENT
WAS LAID. THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA UNRESERVEDLY SUPPORTED
THAT RESOLUTION AND URGED THE PARTIES TO ABIDE BY THE
MANDATE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, SO AS TO OCCUR PEACE
AND SECURITY IN THE AREA

UNFORTUNATELY, THE STATE OF ISRAEL HAS NOT COMPLIED
WITH THE FUNDAMENTAL CONDITION OF THAT RESOLUTION WHICH
REQUIRED THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT TO RETURN TO THE
PRE-1967 BOUNDARIES TO PAVE THE WAY FOR A NEGOTIATED PEACE
SETTLEMENT. THE PERSISTENT DELAY BY ISRAEL IN MEETING THIS
BASIC CONDITION AND ITS CONTINUED OCCUPATION OF ARAB
TERRITORIES ACQUIRED BY FORCE OF ARMS DID UNQUESTIONABLY
LEAD TO THE WAR OF OCTOBER 6, 1973. DURING THE PERIOD
OF THE RECENT WAR WHICH LASTED MORE THAN A FORTNIGHT, THE
GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA MAINTAINED AND REITERATED IN NO
UNCERTAIN TERMS ITS OPPOSITION TO THE ILLEGAL OCCUPATION
OF ARAB TERRITORIES BY ISRAEL AND ATTRIBUTED THE OUTBREAK
OF THE WAR TO THE INTRANSIGENCE OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL IN
ITS FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT THE MANDATE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL,
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WHICH IS THE CONSENSUS OF WORLD OPINION.

BECAUSE OF THIS ADAMANT ACT, THE SECURITY COUNCIL WAS
CONSTRAINED TO PASS RESOLUTION 338 OF OCTOBER 22, 1973,
WHICH CALLED FOR AN IMMEDIATE CEASE-FIRE IN THE MIDDLE
EAST IN THE POSITIONS WHICH THE PARTIES THEN OCCUPIED.

AS A MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS, WHOSE MANDATE HAD

BEEN ISSUED THROUGH THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO ITS MEMBER STATES, PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT, AND ALSO A MEMBER OF THE OAU WHOSE MEMBERS HAVE POSITIVELY CONFIRMED THEIR SOLIDARITY WITH THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT IN ITS DETERMINATION TO RECOVER ITS TERRITORY ILLEGALLY OCCUPIED BY ISRAEL, THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA HAS REPEATEDLY CALLED UPON AND URGED ISRAEL TO COMPLY WITH THE MANDATE OF THE WORLD ORGANIZATION.

ON 12TH SEPTEMBER 1973, EVEN BEFORE THE OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES, THE PRESIDENT OF LIBERIA STATED: "...THE LIBERIAN GOVERNMENT IS DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE SERIOUS SITUATION THAT PERSISTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THAT IS WHY, AT THE UNITED NATIONS, AT THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY, AND AT OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORA, THE LIBERIAN GOVERNMENT HAS NOT HESITATED TO LEND ACTIVE SUPPORT TO ALL INITIATIVES AIMED AT PRODUCING A SATISFACTORY AND PERMANENT SETTLEMENT OF THE CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST, BASED ON JUSTICE.... WE HAVE EMPHASIZED OUR OPPOSITION TO ALL FORMS OF AGGRESSION AND INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF STATES. WE ARE ALSO FIRMLY OPPOSED TO THE ACQUISITION OF TERRITORY BY FORCE. WE REMAIN CONVINCED THAT SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242, WHICH INCORPORATED THESE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES, PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR RESOLVING THE PLAGUING PROBLEMS OF THE MIDDLE EAST, WHICH DEFINITELY IS THE CONCERN NOT ONLY OF MEN OF GOODWILL BUT ALSO OF THE ENTIRE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY."

DESPITE THIS FORTRIGHT AND UNEQUIVOCAL POSITION OF THE LIBERIAN GOVERNMENT, THE STATE OF ISRAEL HAS NOT REACTED IN KEEPING WITH THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 2, SECTION 4 OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER AS WELL AS THE SPECIFIC MANDATES CONTAINED IN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242

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(1967), 338 AND 339 (1973).

INASMUCH AS LIBERIA, A CHARTER MEMBER OF THE OAU, HAS PLEDGED ITS UNWAVERING SOLIDARITY WITH THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT, ALSO A CHARTER MEMBER, TO REGAIN ITS TERRITORY ILLEGALLY OCCUPIED, AND SINCE ISRAEL HAS PERSISTED IN ITS REFUSAL TO SURRENDER EGYPTIAN TERRITORY IN CONTRAVENTION OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS, THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA NOW CONSIDERS THAT TO MAINTAIN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE STATE OF ISRAEL WOULD NOT BE IN HARMONY WITH AFRICAN UNITY AND SOLIDARITY. MOREOVER, IT IS FELT THAT THIS ADAMANT BEHAVIOR OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL, UNLESS REVERSED WITHOUT DELAY, MIGHT LEAD TO YET ANOTHER VIOLENT OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THEREBY THREATENING WORLD PEACE AND SECURITY.

THEREFOR, THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA HEREBY SEVERS
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF
ISRAEL, AND THIS SEVERANCE WILL CONTINUE AS LONG AS ISRAEL
ILLEGALLY OCCUPIES ARAB TERRITORIES. END OF QUOTE.
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